
HOUSE BILL 1111

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representative Bush

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to absentee ballots; and amending RCW 29.36.010.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.36.010 and 1991 c 81 s 29 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Any registered voter of the state or any out-of-state voter,
6 overseas voter, or service voter may vote by absentee ballot in any
7 general election, special election, or primary in the manner provided
8 in this chapter. Out-of-state voters, overseas voters, and service
9 voters are authorized to cast the same ballots, including those for
10 special elections, as a registered voter of the state would receive
11 under this chapter.

12 (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section,
13 in RCW 29.36.013, and in RCW 29.36.170, a registered voter or elector
14 desiring to cast an absentee ballot must request the absentee ballot
15 from his or her county auditor no earlier than forty-five days nor
16 later than ((the)) fifteen days before any election or primary. Except
17 as provided in subsection (3) of this section and in RCW 29.36.170, the
18 request may be made orally in person, by telephone, or in writing. An
19 application or request for an absentee ballot made under the authority

1 of any federal statute or regulation shall be considered and given the
2 same effect as a request for an absentee ballot under this chapter.

3 (2) For any registered voter, a request for an absentee ballot for
4 a primary shall be honored as a request for an absentee ballot for the
5 following general election if the voter so indicates in his or her
6 request. For any out-of-state voter, overseas voter, or service voter,
7 a request for an absentee ballot for a primary election shall also be
8 honored as a request for an absentee ballot for the following general
9 election.

10 (3) A voter admitted to a hospital no earlier than five days before
11 a primary or election and confined to the hospital on election day may
12 apply by messenger for an absentee ballot on the day of the primary or
13 election if a signed statement from the hospital administrator, or
14 designee, verifying the voter's date of admission and status as a
15 patient in the hospital on the day of the primary or election is
16 attached to the voter's written application for an absentee ballot.

17 (4) In a voter's request for an absentee ballot, the voter shall
18 state the address to which the absentee ballot should be sent. A
19 request for an absentee ballot from an out-of-state voter, overseas
20 voter, or service voter shall state the address of that elector's last
21 residence for voting purposes in the state of Washington and either a
22 written application or the oath on the return envelope shall include a
23 declaration of the other qualifications of the applicant as an elector
24 of this state. A request for an absentee ballot from any other voter
25 shall state the address at which that voter is currently registered to
26 vote in the state of Washington or the county auditor shall verify such
27 information from the voter registration records of the county.

28 (5) A request for an absentee ballot from a registered voter who is
29 within this state shall be made directly to the auditor of the county
30 in which the voter is registered. An absentee ballot request from a
31 registered voter who is temporarily outside this state or from an out-
32 of-state voter, overseas voter, or service voter may be made either to
33 the appropriate county auditor or to the secretary of state, who shall
34 promptly forward the request to the appropriate county auditor. No
35 person, organization, or association may distribute absentee ballot
36 applications within this state that contain any return address other
37 than that of the appropriate county auditor.

38 (6) A person may request an absentee ballot for use by the person
39 as a registered voter and may request an absentee ballot on behalf of

1 any member of that person's immediate family who is a registered voter
2 for use by the family member. As a means of ensuring that a person who
3 requests an absentee ballot is requesting the ballot for only that
4 person or a member of the person's immediate family, the secretary of
5 state shall adopt rules prescribing the circumstances under which an
6 auditor: May require a person who requests an absentee ballot to
7 identify the date of birth of the voter for whom the ballot is
8 requested; and may deny a request which is not accompanied by this
9 information.

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